

A Study on MGNREGA Workers in Thoothukudi

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Abstract

An employment programme called the National Rural Employment Generation Scheme (NREGs) offers adults over the age of 18 100 days of pay employment. On September 5, 2005, it went into effect. With 200 being Phase I districts and 130 being Phase II districts, the NREGs Act of 2005 included 330 districts in India. The NREGs were introduced in 2006 by former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh. In the same year, the districts of Palakkad and Wayanad adopted the programme. 14 more districts were added in 2008. The pay rate increased from Rs229 to Rs240. Planning and implementing the programme are major responsibilities of the local government. Gram Panchayats carry out MGNREGA's enforcement. The favoured labor-intensive jobs include soil preparation and water harvesting.

Key Words: MGNREGA, 100 days employment, Rural Development

1. Introduction

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) was implemented and came into force on September 5, 2005. It was the first act of its kind in the world wherein an economic safety net is provided to around 2/3rd of the population through the right to work. The scale on which it has been provided is just mindboggling, engaging around 1/10th of the total world population. It was second in a series of right based policies Government of India has rolled out in the past decade. The others are the Right to Information (RTI) Act, the Right to Education (RTE) Act, the Right to Food Act etc. passed in 2005, 2009 and 2013 respectively. Rural development is a continuous and comprehensive socio-economic process attempting to improve all aspects of rural life. It aims at improving the economic and social conditions of people living in village. In order to make rural development more broad based and balanced, major areas of concern have to be addressed. In the new economic view of development considers reduction or elimination of poverty, inequality and unemployment as an important index of development. To accelerate the reduction of poverty and increase in employment a number of poverty alleviation, employment generation and basic services programmes are being implemented. However, this strategy needs to be completed with a focus on provision of basic services for improving the quality of life of the people through state intervention in the form of targeted anti-poverty programmes.

2. Objectives of the Study

The objectives duly formulated for the study are as follows:

- ✓ To examine the socio economic status and the expenditure pattern of sample beneficiaries of

Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Mappillaiurani.

- ✓ To analyze the Opinion and Awareness of beneficiaries about Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme in Mappillaiurani.
- ✓ To Study the Problems faced by the Respondents in their Working Place.

3. Statement of the Problem

MGNREGA aims at enhancing the livelihood security of people in rural areas by guaranteeing 100 days of wage employment in a financial year to a rural household whose adult members volunteer to do unskilled manual work. This scheme involves roles and responsibilities of large number of rural people who are in unemployment. Especially women scheduled castes and scheduled tribes are more benefited by through this scheme. In the areas where the MGNREGA being implemented faces several critical issues and which that have limited impact have been highlighted. Researcher wants to analyse and evaluate the effectiveness of the MGNREGA in securing guarantee of rural employment, and the impact of the scheme on rural development.

4. Review of Literature

Rahul Bahuguna (2016) made a study on “Workers satisfaction on MGNREGA”. The main objectives of this study are to study the impact of MGNREGA among unemployment and also to find out the bottlenecks in implementation of MGNREGA. The study found that there is a need to amend the structure of the programme.

Neelakshi Mann and Varad pande (2012) did a study on “Workers satisfaction on MGNREGA”. The main objectives of this study are to know the social protection scheme among people living in rural India and also to improved water security, soil conservation about MGNREGA.

Rajiv Ranjan (2016) undergone a study on “Workers satisfaction on MGNREGA”. The main objectives of this study are to assess the minimum level of household security of the rural household’s people and also to study the work on demand among unskilled labour.

Roshni pandey (2016) made a study on “Workers satisfaction on MGNREGA”. Researcher reveals the economic development of rural India and also study the role of MGNREGA of infrastructural development in India. The study found that the beneficial and effective scheme for development of rural India.

Misbah Jahan (2018) did a study on “Workers satisfaction on MGNREGA”. The main objectives of this study is to the awareness of MGNREGA among rural people and also to identify the sources of MGNREGA. The study found that various awareness is created by media to the concern people.

Lamaan Sami (2016) made a study on “Workers satisfaction on MGNREGA”. The main objectives of this study are to empowering rural women through right based law and also reducing urban migration. The study found that various alternative are inadequate for enhance the scheme among the unemployment.

5. Methodology

By adopting Purposive random sampling method 53 respondents are selected from Mappillaiurani of Thoothukudi. The present study used both primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected through an interview schedule. Secondary data was collected from various books, Internet, magazines etc.

Data Analysis and Interpretation

Table 1: Demographic Profile of the Respondents

	No. of Respondents	Percentage
AGE		
21-30years	6	11
31-40years	20	33
41-50years	22	42
51-60years	5	9
Total	53	100
Gender		
Male	6	11
Female	47	89
Total	53	100
Marital Status		
Married	48	91
Unmarried	5	9
Total	53	100
Occupation		
Casual labourer	12	23
Agriculture labourer	16	30
Land owing cultivator	7	13
Water conservation	18	34
Total	53	100
Monthly Income		
Upto 10,000	16	30
10,000-15,000	32	60
15,000-20,000	5	10
20,000-25,000	-	-
Total	53	100

Source: Primary Data

The above table reveals the personal profile of the selected MGNREA workers in Mappillaioorani area. It is clearly evident that Majority of the respondents are comes under the age group of 51-60 and majority of them are married. 60 Per cent of the respondents are got a monthly salary of 10,000 – 15,000. 34 present of them are working under water conservation work.

Table 2: Awareness about the Scheme

Awareness	No. of Respondents	Percentage
Gram panchayat	36	68
Media	2	4
Through contractors	6	11
Friends & relatives	9	17
Total	53	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 2 clearly explained about the workers awareness about the MGNREA Scheme. Majority of the respondents said that they aware about the scheme through their Gram Panchayat. Only 4 per cent of them know about the scheme through media.

Table 3: Nature of Work Under MGNREA

Particulars	No. of workers	Percentage
Water conservation	12	23
Land development	18	34
Foot path	3	6
All	20	38
Total	53	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 3 clearly reveals the workers' nature of work under MGNREA. 34 per cent of them are allotted under land development work and 38 percent of them are allotted any work which is assigned by their higher authorities.

Table: 4 Expenses Pattern of Workers

Particulars	No. of Workers	Percentage
Food	9	17
Children education	33	62
Repayment of loan	2	4
For health and savings	9	17
Total	53	100

Source: Primary Data

Table 4 clearly reveals that the expenses pattern of workers in the selected area. Majority of them spent their earnings for their children education only a few (4) per cent of them used their earnings for their loan repayment.

Table: 5 Loan Details and Purpose of Loan (Weighted Average Ranking)

S. No.	Purposes	1 (6)	2 (5)	3 (4)	4 (3)	5 (2)	6 (1)	Total	Percentage (%)	Rank
1	Cattle loan	30	40	32	42	14	11	169	16	IV
2	Agriculture purpose	30	10	52	39	22	6	159	15	V
3	Marriage purpose	48	65	20	15	28	7	183	17	III
4	Housing purpose	60	90	36	21	12	3	222	21	II
5	Educational purpose	144	30	16	27	10	5	232	22	I
6	Festival purpose	6	15	16	27	16	21	101	9	VI
	Total	318	250	172	171	102	53	1066	100	

Source: Computed data

Table 5 explains about the loan details and their purpose of loan of workers. Researcher used weighted average ranking method for analysis. It is clearly evident that Educational purposed got the first rank and festival purpose got the last rank.

Table: 6 Problems Faced by Workers at their Working Place (Weighted Average Ranking)

S. No.	Facilities	1 (4)	2 (3)	3 (2)	4 (1)	Total	Percentage (%)	Rank
1	No creche facilities	32	66	28	9	135	24	III
2	No sanitation	112	21	16	10	159	28	I
3	No first aid	56	48	27	16	147	26	II
4	Gender discrimination	12	24	66	20	122	22	IV
	Total	212	159	137	55	563	100	

Source: Computed Data

The above table clearly explains about the Problems faced by the MGNREA workers in their working place. 28 per cent of the respondents feels that Sanitation facilities are not available at their working place. No first Aid facility also one of the major problem and Gender discrimination and No creche facilities are the problems faced by the female workers at their working environment.

6. Suggestion

Based on the findings of the study researcher has suggested the following points:

Most of the respondents feels that they have no sanitation facilities at their working place. Some of the female respondents said that they want money for their day-to-day life. But this is the major problem while they have chosen 100 days working. So that they have to choose another job such as house servant, and cleaning work in any office or hospitals. Government should arrange proper sanitation facilities. Gender discrimination is also another problem faced by the women worker. Discrimination may be resolved by giving correct wages to them. It will helps them to earn some money for their day to day life.

7. Conclusion

MGNREGA is landmark legislation in the history of social security legislation in India after independence. Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act is a very good step from the government to reduce unemployment. MGNREGA is a well thought out legislation, a powerful tool in the hands of the rural people to get their basic livelihood. MGNREGA has produced benefits for rural India, particularly through the provision of extra income during tough times. There has been some good work done under MGNREGA. MGNREGA is firmly here to stay and will help serve a very important purpose of providing a lifeline to poor and underemployed rural people.

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